

Application No. 09/851,460
Attorney Docket No.: 9784-3U2 (TH8002US/B)

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please amend claims 1 and 16-17, and add new claims 18-20, so that the claims read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A multilayer barrier film comprising a filled layer based on polypropylene and a plurality of unfilled layers, wherein the filled layer is filled with 40-75 weight %, based on the total weight of the filled layer, of an inorganic filler, forms one of the two surface layers of the film, and has a thickness of 40 μm to 400 μm , the unfilled layers comprising at least a barrier layer and a sealing layer and optionally at least one adhesive layer, and the ratio of the total thickness of the unfilled layers to the thickness of the filled layer being from 1:8 to 1:1.2, wherein the sealing layer forms the other of the two surface layers of the film and the barrier layer is sandwiched between the filled layer and the sealing layer.
2. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the filled layer is selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, propylene/ethylene copolymer, and mixtures thereof as a polymer matrix.
3. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler is selected from the group consisting of calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, talcum powder, titanium dioxide, kaolin and silicon dioxide.
4. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is selected from the group consisting of ethylene vinyl alcohol copolymer (EVOH), polyvinylidene chloride (PVDC), and polyamide (PA) and is bonded to the filled layer via at least one adhesive layer.
5. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the barrier layer comprises a mixture of a matrix polymer with EVOH or PA and is bonded to the filled layer without any adhesive layer.
6. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 4, wherein the barrier layer comprises EVOH.

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7. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the sealing layer comprises an ethylene polymer.

8. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 7, wherein the ethylene polymer comprises polyethylene of low density (LDPE), optionally mixed with polybutylene, and the sealing layer is bonded to the barrier layer via an adhesive layer.

9. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 7, wherein the ethylene polymer comprises ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, and the sealing layer is bonded to the barrier layer without any adhesive layer.

10. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 4, wherein the adhesive layers comprise different materials.

11. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the relation of the thickness of the unfilled layers to the thickness of the filled layer is between 1:4 and 1:2.

12. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the film is printed and laminated by adhesives after a corona, flame, fluorine or plasma pretreatment.

13. (Original) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the film is in the form of a packaging material formed on a form-, fill- and seal-machine (FFS-machine).

14. (Original) A packaging material for perishable kinds of food, especially meat and poultry, comprising a multilayer barrier film according to claim 1 formed on a FFS-machine by thermo-forming.

15. (Currently Amended) A package comprising a tray-like lower part produced from a multilayer barrier film according to claim 1 and sealed by a lidding film.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The package according to claim 15, wherein the lidding film comprises a multilayer film with the following sequence of layers: polyester terephthalate (PET)/PVDC/adhesive /LDPE or PET/adhesive/polyethylene (PE) /adhesive /EVOH/adhesive/PE.

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17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The package according to claim 15, wherein the lidding film comprises the layers PET/SiO_x/adhesive/LDPE.

18. (New) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic filler consists essentially of a single filler.

19. (New) The multilayer barrier film according to claim 18, wherein the single filler is calcium carbonate.

20. (New) The packaging material according to claim 15, wherein the lidding film is sealed to the sealing layer of the multilayer barrier film.